

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. 1. A method for managing digital rights, the method comprising:
  2. detecting a data file on a user device, wherein the data file includes a digital wrapper preventing access to the data file without a valid authorization;
  4. searching for information relating to an authorization to access the data file using data stored in a non-volatile storage area of the user device; and
  6. disabling the digital wrapper if an authorization to access the data file is found during the search.
1. 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the data file comprises a media file.
1. 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the search for information relating to an authorization to access the data file is conducted in a license database on the user device.
1. 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the license database is located in the non-volatile storage area of the user device.
1. 5. The method of claim 4 wherein the non-volatile storage area of the user device comprises a basic input/output system (BIOS).
1. 6. The method of claim 3 wherein the data stored in the non-volatile storage area of the user device includes a location of the license database.
1. 7. The method of claim 3 wherein the data stored in the non-volatile storage area of the user device includes an access key for the license database, with the access key being necessary to access the license database.
1. 8. The method of claim 3 wherein the license database includes an access key for the data file, with the access key being necessary to disable the wrapper.

1       9. The method of claim 1 wherein the search for information relating to an authorization to  
2       access the data file is conducted in a license database associated with a remote server.

1       10. The method of claim 9 wherein the search for information relating to an authorization to  
2       access the data file is conducted in the license database associated with the remote server  
3       in response to a determination that a local database on the user device does not include  
4       information relating to an authorization to access the data file.

1       11. The method of claim 9 further comprising sending identification data for the user device  
2       to the central server, wherein the identification data is adapted to allow the central server  
3       to validate the user device.

1       12. The method of claim 11 wherein the identification data includes a digital key associated  
2       with at least one of:  
3              the user device; and  
4              a user associated with the user device.

1       13. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2              offering for purchase an authorization to access the data file;  
3              receiving an acceptance of the offer to purchase; and  
4              disabling the digital wrapper in response to the acceptance of the offer.

1       14. The method of claim 13 further comprising:  
2              sending the acceptance of the offer to a central server;  
3              receiving a message from the central server in response to the acceptance of the offer,  
4              wherein data contained in the message is used to disable the digital wrapper.

1       15. The method of claim 14 further comprising sending identification data for the user device  
2       to the central server, wherein the identification data is adapted to allow the central server  
3       to validate the user device.

1       16. The method of claim 15 wherein the identification data includes a digital key associated  
2                  with at least one of the user device and a user associated with the user device.

1       17. The method of claim 13 further comprising storing information relating to an  
2                  authorization to access the data file on the user device.

1       18. The method of claim 1 further comprising denying access to the data file if an  
2                  authorization to access the data file is not found during the search and if an offer to  
3                  purchase an authorization to access the data file is not accepted.

1       19. The method of claim 1 wherein searching for information relating to an authorization to  
2                  access the data file comprises determining whether the user device includes software for  
3                  disabling the digital wrapper, with the determination being made using executable  
4                  instructions stored in the digital wrapper.

- 1        20. A method for managing digital rights, the method comprising:
  - 2              detecting a data file on a user device;
  - 3              identifying the data file using a file recognition algorithm;
  - 4              searching for information relating to an authorization to access the data file using data stored in a non-volatile storage area of the user device; and
  - 5              allowing access to the data file if an authorization to access the data file is found during the search.
- 1        21. The method of claim 20 wherein the file recognition algorithm comprises a digital fingerprinting detection technique.
- 1        22. The method of claim 20 wherein the data file comprises a media file.
- 1        23. The method of claim 20 wherein the search for information relating to an authorization to access the data file is conducted in a license database on the user device.
- 1        24. The method of claim 23 wherein the data stored in a non-volatile storage area of the user device identifies a location of the license database in a volatile storage area of the user device.
- 1        25. The method of claim 20 wherein the search for information relating to an authorization to access the data file is conducted in a license database associated with a remote server.
- 1        26. The method of claim 20 further comprising:
  - 2              offering for purchase an authorization to access the data file;
  - 3              receiving an acceptance of the offer to purchase; and
  - 4              allowing access to the data file in response to the acceptance of the offer.
- 1        27. The method of claim 26 further comprising storing information relating to an authorization to access the data file in a database on the user device in response to the acceptance of the offer to purchase.

- 1        28. The method of claim 20 further comprising applying a digital wrapper to the data file,
- 2              with the digital wrapper associated with the identified file.

- 1        29. A method for allocating proceeds in connection with a distribution of digital rights, the
- 2              method comprising:
  - 3                  receiving a data file on a user device, wherein the data file includes a digital wrapper
  - 4                  including information relating to at least one distributor of the data file;
  - 5                  receiving a request to purchase a right to access the data file;
  - 6                  extracting the information relating to at least one distributor from the digital wrapper;
  - 7                  and
  - 8                  allocating credits to the at least one distributor based on the extracted information.
- 1        30. The method of claim 29 wherein the digital wrapper further includes information relating
- 2              to an assigned allocation of royalties associated with purchases of rights to access the
- 3              data file.
- 1        31. The method of claim 30 wherein the extracted information comprises a unique file
- 2              identifier, the method further comprising retrieving at least one of the distributor
- 3              information and the royalty allocation information using the unique file identifier.
- 1        32. The method of claim 31 wherein the retrieved information is retrieved from a central
- 2              database located remotely from the user device.
- 1        33. The method of claim 29 further comprising sending the request to purchase to a central
- 2              server and storing the allocation of credits in a database associated with the central server.

- 1       34. A method for allocating proceeds in connection with a distribution of digital rights, the
- 2           method comprising:
  - 3              receiving a data file on a user device, wherein the data file includes a digital wrapper
  - 4              including information relating to one or more distributors of the data file;
  - 5              identifying a user of the user device;
  - 6              modifying the digital wrapper to include information relating to the identification of
  - 7              the user, wherein a detection of the data file with the modified digital wrapper enables an
  - 8              allocation of credit to the user.
- 1       35. The method of claim 34 wherein the digital wrapper is adapted to prevent access to the
- 2           data file without a valid authorization.
- 1       36. The method of claim 35 further comprising:
  - 2              sending the data file with the modified digital wrapper to a device associated with a
  - 3              consumer;
  - 4              receiving a request to purchase access to the data file from the consumer device; and
  - 5              disabling the digital wrapper on the consumer device in response to the received
  - 6              request.
- 1       37. The method of claim 36 further comprising allocating credit for the consumer purchase
- 2           among the one or more distributors.
- 1       38. The method of claim 34 wherein the information relating to the identification of the user
- 2           comprises a unique user identifier for the user, with the unique user identifier assigned by
- 3           a central server.
- 1       39. The method of claim 34 wherein the data file comprises a media file.

1       40. A method for facilitating digital rights management on a user device, the method  
2       comprising:

3           collecting information relating to a user device from the user device, with the  
4           information relating to the user device including unique identification data for the user  
5           device;

6           generating a digital key using the collected information;

7           storing the digital key;

8           encrypting the digital key;

9           sending the encrypted key to the user device for storage on the user device;

10          receiving, from the user device, the encrypted key and information relating to the user  
11          device; and

12          validating the user device using at least two of the received encrypted key, the  
13          received information, and the stored digital key.

1       41. The method of claim 40 further comprising collecting identification information relating  
2       to a user of the user device, wherein the digital key is generated using the identification  
3       information relating to the user.

1       42. The method of claim 40 wherein the collected information is collected in accordance with  
2       executable code stored on the user device.

1       43. The method of claim 40 wherein the digital key is generated by and stored on a central  
2       server.

1       44. The method of claim 40 wherein validating the user device comprises:  
2           decrypting the encrypted key; and  
3           comparing the encrypted key to the stored digital key.

1       45. The method of claim 40 wherein validating the user device comprises:  
2           generating a digital key using the received information relating to the user device; and  
3           comparing the digital key to the stored digital key.

- 1        46. The method of claim 40 further comprising authorizing access to a license database in
- 2                  response to validating the user device.
  
- 1        47. The method of claim 40 further comprising authorizing access to a digital file in response
- 2                  to validating the user device.
  
- 1        48. The method of claim 40 wherein the unique identification data is extracted from a non-
- 2                  volatile storage area of the user device.

- 1        49. A method for managing digital rights, the method comprising:
  - 2            monitoring an input/output system of a user device for attempted file transfers;
  - 3            detecting an attempt to transfer a data file through the input/output system;
  - 4            applying a digital wrapper to the data file before allowing the attempted transfer,
  - 5            wherein the digital wrapper is adapted to prevent unauthorized access to the data file.
  
- 1        50. The method of claim 49 wherein the data file comprises a media file.
  
- 1        51. The method of claim 49 further comprising identifying the data file, wherein the digital  
2            wrapper is applied based on the identity of the data file.
  
- 1        52. The method of claim 51 wherein the digital wrapper is applied based on the identity of  
2            the data file matching an identification of the data file in a database on the user device.
  
- 1        53. The method of claim 51 wherein identifying the data file comprises using a file  
2            recognition algorithm.
  
- 1        54. The method of claim 49 wherein the digital wrapper includes information identifying the  
2            data file and information relating to an allocation of credits associated with purchases of  
3            the data file.

- 1        55. A method for managing digital rights, the method comprising:
  - 2           identifying a digital file on a first user device, wherein the digital file is subject to a
  - 3           license in accordance with license information stored on the first user device;
  - 4           receiving a request to copy the digital file from the first user device to a second user
  - 5           device;
  - 6           obtaining information associated with the second user device, including unique
  - 7           identification data for the second user device;
  - 8           copying the digital file from the first user device to the second user device;
  - 9           storing data on the first user device, wherein the data identifies the copied digital file
  - 10          and identifies the second user device.
- 1        56. The method of claim 55 further comprising synchronizing the stored data on the first user
- 2           device with a central database.
- 1        57. The method of claim 55 further comprising determining that the requested copying of the
- 2           digital file is authorized based on the license information.
- 1        58. The method of claim 57 wherein the license information is contained in a digital wrapper
- 2           for the digital file.
- 1        59. The method of claim 55 further comprising storing the license information for the digital
- 2           file on the second user device.

- 1        60. A method for managing digital rights, the method comprising:
  - 2              identifying a media file for distribution;
  - 3              identifying access rules associated with the media file, wherein the access rules
  - 4              include information relating to usage rights and usage fees;
  - 5              applying a digital wrapper to the media file, with the digital wrapper including
  - 6              identification data for the media file and data relating to the access rules, wherein the
  - 7              digital wrapper is adapted to prevent unauthorized access to the media file.
- 1        61. The method of claim 60 wherein the digital wrapper is adapted to be disabled for use of
- 2              the media file by a user that has a license to access the media file.
- 1        62. The method of claim 60 wherein the digital wrapper further includes information relating
- 2              to at least one distributor of the media file.

1       63. A method for managing digital rights, the method comprising:  
2           encoding a media file with licensing information;  
3           locking the media file using a digital wrapper to prevent unauthorized access;  
4           loading the wrapped media file onto a user device;  
5           installing instructions on the user device to allow unlocking of media files, wherein  
6           the instructions provide for identifying the media file and sending a message, in  
7           accordance with the licensing information encoded in the media file, to a remote server to  
8           obtain a license to use the media file;  
9           receiving a license to access the media file from the remote server; and  
10          allowing access to the media file on the user device using the license.

1       64. The method of claim 63 further comprising storing the license to access the media file on  
2           the user device.

1       65. The method of claim 63 wherein the license includes data for unlocking the media file.

1       66. A system for managing digital rights, comprising:  
2           a centralized database adapted to store identifiers for a plurality of digital files and  
3           adapted to store user licenses to use the digital files;  
4           a centralized server operable to receive messages via a network from a remote device,  
5           with each received message including a user identifier for a user and identification  
6           information for a digital file, wherein the centralized server is further operable to process  
7           payment information for a license to use the digital file, to store information associating  
8           the license to use the digital file with the user, and to send licensing information for the  
9           digital file to the remote device; and  
10           wherein the licensing information is adapted to enable the remote device to allow use  
11           of the digital file by the user.

1       67. The system of claim 66 wherein the centralized server is further operable to receive one  
2           or more digital keys from the remote device and to decrypt the one or more digital keys  
3           to validate an identity of at least one of the remote device and the user.

1       68. The system of claim 67 wherein the centralized server is further operable to receive  
2           device-specific data from the remote device for use in validating the remote device.

1       69. The system of claim 66 wherein the remote device comprises a server adapted to support  
2           streaming of digital files to a user device associated with the user.

1       70. The system of claim 69 wherein the remote device stores the licensing information.

1       71. The system of claim 66 wherein the remote device comprises a user device associated  
2           with the user.

1       72. The system of claim 71 wherein the centralized server is further adapted to receive  
2           information from the user device, generate a digital key associated with at least one of the  
3           user and the user device, and send the digital key to the user device, with the digital key

4        being adapted to enable access to at least one of the license information, a license  
5        database containing the license information, and the digital file.

1        73. The system of claim 66 wherein the licensing information comprises data adapted for use  
2        in disabling a digital wrapper applied to the digital file.

1       74. An article comprising a machine-readable medium storing instructions for causing one or  
2       more processors to perform operations comprising:  
3              detecting a data file on a user device, wherein the data file includes a digital wrapper  
4              preventing access to the data file without a valid authorization;  
5              searching for information relating to an authorization to access the data file using data  
6              stored in a non-volatile storage area of the user device; and  
7              disabling the digital wrapper if an authorization to access the data file is found during  
8              the search.

1       75. The article of claim 74 wherein the data stored in the non-volatile storage area comprises  
2       a digital key for accessing a license database on the user device.

1       76. The article of claim 75 wherein the data stored in the non-volatile storage area comprises  
2       location information for the license database.

1       77. The article of claim 74 wherein the authorization to access the data file comprises a  
2       digital key for disabling the digital wrapper, and disabling the digital wrapper is  
3       performed using the digital key.

1       78. The article of claim 74 wherein the machine-readable medium stores instructions for  
2       causing one or more processors to perform further operations comprising monitoring a  
3       file input system for the user device, wherein detecting the data file on the user device is  
4       performed as a result of monitoring the file input system.

1       79. The article of claim 74 wherein the machine-readable medium stores instructions for  
2       causing one or more processors to perform further operations comprising:  
3              detecting a device key stored on the user device; and  
4              validating the device key to determine if the user device is an authorized device,  
5              wherein disabling the digital wrapper is not performed if the user device is not an  
6              authorized device.

- 1        80. The article of claim 74 wherein the machine-readable medium stores instructions for
- 2                causing one or more processors to perform further operations comprising sending a
- 3                request message to a remote server requesting an authorization to access the data file if an
- 4                authorization to access the data file is not found on the user device.
  
- 1        81. The article of claim 80 wherein the request message comprises a request to purchase an
- 2                authorization to access the data file.
  
- 1        82. The article of claim 80 wherein the machine-readable medium stores instructions for
- 2                causing one or more processors to perform further operations comprising:
  - 3                receiving a response message in response to the request message, wherein the
  - 4                response message includes an authorization to access the data file; and
  - 5                disabling the digital wrapper using the authorization to access the data file included
  - 6                with the response message.
  
- 1        83. The article of claim 74 wherein the machine-readable medium stores instructions for
- 2                causing one or more processors to perform further operations comprising:
  - 3                providing, to a user of the user device, an offer to purchase an authorization to access
  - 4                the data file if an authorization to access the data file is not found during the search;
  - 5                receiving an acceptance of the offer to purchase; and
  - 6                storing an indication of the acceptance of the offer to purchase.
  
- 1        84. The article of claim 83 wherein the machine-readable medium stores instructions for
- 2                causing one or more processors to perform further operations comprising sending the
- 3                indication of the acceptance of the offer to purchase to a remote server.

- 1        85. An article comprising a machine-readable medium storing instructions for causing one or
- 2              more processors to perform operations comprising:
  - 3                  detecting a data file on a user device;
  - 4                  identifying the data file using a file recognition algorithm;
  - 5                  searching for information relating to an authorization to access the data file using data
  - 6                  stored in a non-volatile storage area of the user device; and
  - 7                  allowing access to the data file if an authorization to access the data file is found
  - 8                  during the search.
- 1        86. The article of claim 85 wherein the machine-readable medium stores instructions for
- 2              causing one or more processors to perform further operations comprising monitoring an
- 3              input system of the user device, wherein detecting the data file occurs as a result of the
- 4              monitoring.
- 1        87. The article of claim 86 wherein the data stored in the non-volatile storage area comprises
- 2              a digital key for accessing a license database on the user device.
- 1        88. The article of claim 87 wherein the data stored in the non-volatile storage area comprises
- 2              location information for the license database.

- 1        89. An article comprising a machine-readable medium storing instructions for causing one or  
2           more processors to perform operations comprising:
  - 3              receiving information extracted from a digital wrapper applied to a data file, with the  
4                   extracted information including an identification of the data file;
  - 5              receiving a request to purchase an authorization to access the data file;
  - 6              identifying at least one distributor of the data file based on the extracted information;
  - 7              and
  - 8              allocating credits to the identified distributors in accordance with a predefined  
9                   allocation structure.
- 1        90. The article of claim 89 wherein the extracted information includes an identifier associated  
2           with each of the identified distributors.
- 1        91. The article of claim 89 wherein allocating credits to the identified distributors is  
2           performed in accordance with data in the extracted information.

- 1        92. An article comprising a machine-readable medium storing instructions for causing one or
- 2              more processors to perform operations comprising:
  - 3                  storing a data file on a user device, wherein the data file includes a digital wrapper
  - 4                  including information relating to at least one or more distributors of the data file;
  - 5                  identifying a user of the user device;
  - 6                  modifying the digital wrapper to include information relating to the identification of
  - 7                  the user, wherein a detection of the data file with the modified digital wrapper enables an
  - 8                  allocation of credit to the user.
- 1        93. The article of claim 92 wherein the digital wrapper includes information relating to an
- 2              assigned allocation of credit for the user.
- 1        94. The article of claim 92 wherein the digital wrapper is operable to prevent access to the
- 2              data file without a valid authorization to access the data file.

1       95. An article comprising a machine-readable medium storing instructions for causing one or  
2       more processors to perform operations comprising:

3           receiving information relating to a user device from the user device, with the received  
4       information including unique identification data for the user device;

5           generating a digital key using the received information;

6           storing the digital key;

7           encrypting the digital key;

8           sending the encrypted key to the user device for storage on the user device;

9           receiving, from the user device, the encrypted key and collected information relating  
10      to the user device, with the collected information being collected by the user device in  
11      accordance with instructions stored on the user device; and

12           validating the user device using at least two of the received encrypted key, the  
13      collected information, and the stored digital key.

1       96. The article of claim 95 wherein the machine-readable medium stores instructions for  
2       causing one or more processors to perform further operations comprising:

3           receiving from the user device a request for an authorization to access a data file; and

4           sending the authorization to access the data file in response to validating the user  
5      device.

1       97. The article of claim 96 wherein the encrypted key and the collected information is  
2       received in connection with the request for the authorization.

1       98. The article of claim 96 wherein the machine-readable medium stores instructions for  
2       causing one or more processors to perform further operations comprising storing an  
3       indication of the authorization to access the data file in response to validating the user  
4      device.

1       99. The article of claim 95 wherein the machine-readable medium stores instructions for  
2       causing one or more processors to perform further operations comprising:

- 3 receiving a unique identifier for a user associated with the user device; and
- 4 generating the digital key further using the unique identifier for the user.

1       100. An article comprising a machine-readable medium storing instructions for causing  
2       one or more processors to perform operations comprising:  
3              monitoring an input/output system of a user device for attempted file transfers;  
4              detecting an attempt to transfer a data file through the input/output system;  
5              applying a digital wrapper to the data file before allowing the attempted transfer,  
6        wherein the digital wrapper is adapted to prevent unauthorized access to the data file.

1       101. The article of claim 100 wherein the machine-readable medium stores instructions for  
2       causing one or more processors to perform further operations comprising identifying the  
3       data file as being subject to protection from unauthorized copying.

1       102. The article of claim 101 wherein identifying the data file as being subject to  
2       protection from unauthorized copying includes locating an identifier for the data file in a  
3       database stored on the user device.

1       103. The article of claim 101 wherein identifying the data file as being subject to  
2       protection from unauthorized copying includes:  
3              sending a message including information for identifying the data file to a remote  
4       server; and  
5              receiving a response to the message indicating that the data file is subject to  
6       protection from unauthorized copying.

1       104. An article comprising a machine-readable medium storing instructions for causing  
2       one or more processors to perform operations comprising:  
3              identifying a digital file on a first user device, wherein the digital file is subject to a  
4              license in accordance with license information stored on the first user device;  
5              receiving a request to copy the digital file from the first user device to a second user  
6              device;  
7              obtaining information associated with the second user device, including unique  
8              identification data for the second user device;  
9              copying the digital file from the first user device to the second user device;  
10             storing data on the first user device, wherein the data identifies the copied digital file  
11             and identifies the second user device.

1       105. The article of claim 104 wherein the machine-readable medium stores instructions for  
2       causing one or more processors to perform further operations comprising confirming that  
3       copying of the digital file to the second user device is permissible in accordance with the  
4       license information.

1       106. The article of claim 104 wherein receiving the request to copy the digital file  
2       comprises receiving an indication of an attempt to copy the digital file through a file  
3       output system of the first user device.

1       107. The article of claim 104 wherein the machine-readable medium stores instructions for  
2       causing one or more processors to perform further operations comprising sending the data  
3       to a remote server.

1       108. An article comprising a machine-readable medium storing instructions for causing  
2       one or more processors to perform operations comprising:  
3              identifying a media file;  
4              identifying access rules associated with the media file, wherein the access rules  
5       include information relating to usage rights and usage fees;  
6              applying a digital wrapper to the media file, with the digital wrapper including  
7       identification data for the media file and data relating to the access rules, wherein the  
8       digital wrapper is adapted to prevent unauthorized access to the media file.

1       109. The article of claim 108 wherein identifying the media file comprises identifying the  
2       media file using a file recognition algorithm.

1       110. The article of claim 108 wherein identifying the access rules associated with the  
2       media file comprises receiving access rules from a remote server.

1       111. The article of claim 108 wherein the machine-readable medium stores instructions for  
2       causing one or more processors to perform further operations comprising:  
3              receiving a request from a user for authorization to access the media file;  
4              notifying a remote server of the request for authorization to access the media file; and  
5              disabling the digital wrapper to allow access to the media file by the user.

1       112. The article of claim 108 wherein identifying the access rules associated with the  
2       media file comprises receiving the access rules from a user.

1       113. An article comprising a machine-readable medium storing instructions for causing  
2       one or more processors to perform operations comprising:  
3           receiving a digital key;  
4           storing the digital key in a non-volatile memory;  
5           storing license information for at least one digital file in a license database in a  
6       volatile storage area;  
7           identifying an attempt to access a specific digital file; and  
8           allowing access to the digital file using the digital key if the license database includes  
9       license information identifying a license to the specific digital file.

1       114. The article of claim 113 wherein the digital key comprises data specific to a user  
2       device and the machine-readable medium stores instructions for causing one or more  
3       processors to perform further operations comprising:  
4           retrieving identification information from the user device; and  
5           validating the digital key using the identification information and the data specific to  
6       the user device.

1       115. The article of claim 113 wherein the digital key comprises location data for the  
2       license database and the machine-readable medium stores instructions for causing one or  
3       more processors to perform further operations comprising accessing the license database  
4       using the location data from the digital key.

1       116. The article of claim 113 wherein the machine-readable medium stores instructions for  
2       causing one or more processors to perform further operations comprising preventing  
3       access to the digital file if the license database does not include license information  
4       identifying a license to the specific digital file.

1       117. The article of claim 113 wherein the digital key comprises data necessary to decrypt  
2       at least one of the license database and the license information.

1        118. The article of claim 113 wherein the license information includes data necessary to  
2            disable a digital wrapper applied to the specific digital file.